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currents, together with possible changes of level, has filled up one arm to form the low lands near the present course of the channel, and made a barrier across the inlets leading into the two other arms which, now arid and intermittently flooded from the river, form the Pattie and Salton Basins.

In addition to the slow movement of the jungle vegetation seaward with the southern extension of the central portion of the alluvial lands, other major movements of great sweep have taken place. The depressed basins, once a part of the Gulf, have been occupied by various types of xerophytic and halophytic vegetation, by encroachment from the contiguous desert, and by the aid of the inflowing river floods from great distances, and many opportunities have been offered for the origin and adaptation of new species either by direct response or by the chance saltation, which might bring a new form into existence in an environment exactly suitable for its maintenance.

The Cucopa Mountains are in effect a desert range, connected with other high land by a narrow ridge crossing the international boundary, and their arid slopes on the other hand offer conditions of almost absolute isolation, being cut off from the mainland of Sonora and Baja California by low basins and moist alluvial plains, and offering conditions favouring endemism. We thus have a desert island in the midst of a great area in which the distributional movements of vegetation have been of unusually wide amplitude and the possible interchanges of living organisms have been of an exceptional character.

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## LETCHWORTH PARK PRESENTED TO NEW YORK STATE.

Governor Hughes, in his inaugural message to the Legislature of New York on Jan. 2, 1907, made the following communication:

It is my privilege to lay before you the public-spirited proposal of the Hon. William Pryor Letchworth to convey to the people of the State of New York 1,000 acres, approximately, situated in the town of Genesee Falls, Wyoming County, and the town of Portage, Livingston County, upon which Mr. Letchworth now resides.

He desires to dedicate the land to the purposes of a public park or reservation, subject to his life use and tenancy, and his right to make changes and improvements thereon. If it is your pleasure to provide for the acceptance of the gift, the State will thus obtain title to a tract of rare beauty, the preservation of which, for the purposes of a public park, cannot fail to contribute to the advantage and enjoyment of the people.

Late in the same month an Act accepting the gift was passed, and became the first law of Gov. Hughes' administration. It is provided

that the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, after the death of the grantor, shall have control of the property for the purposes of a public park.

The Twelfth Annual Report (1907) of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society contains an article by Edward H. Hall, Secretary of the Society, giving a biographical sketch of the munificent donor, describing the park, and telling the geological story of the Genesee River, and of the wonderful cañon through which it flows, the most beautiful part of which is included in the park.

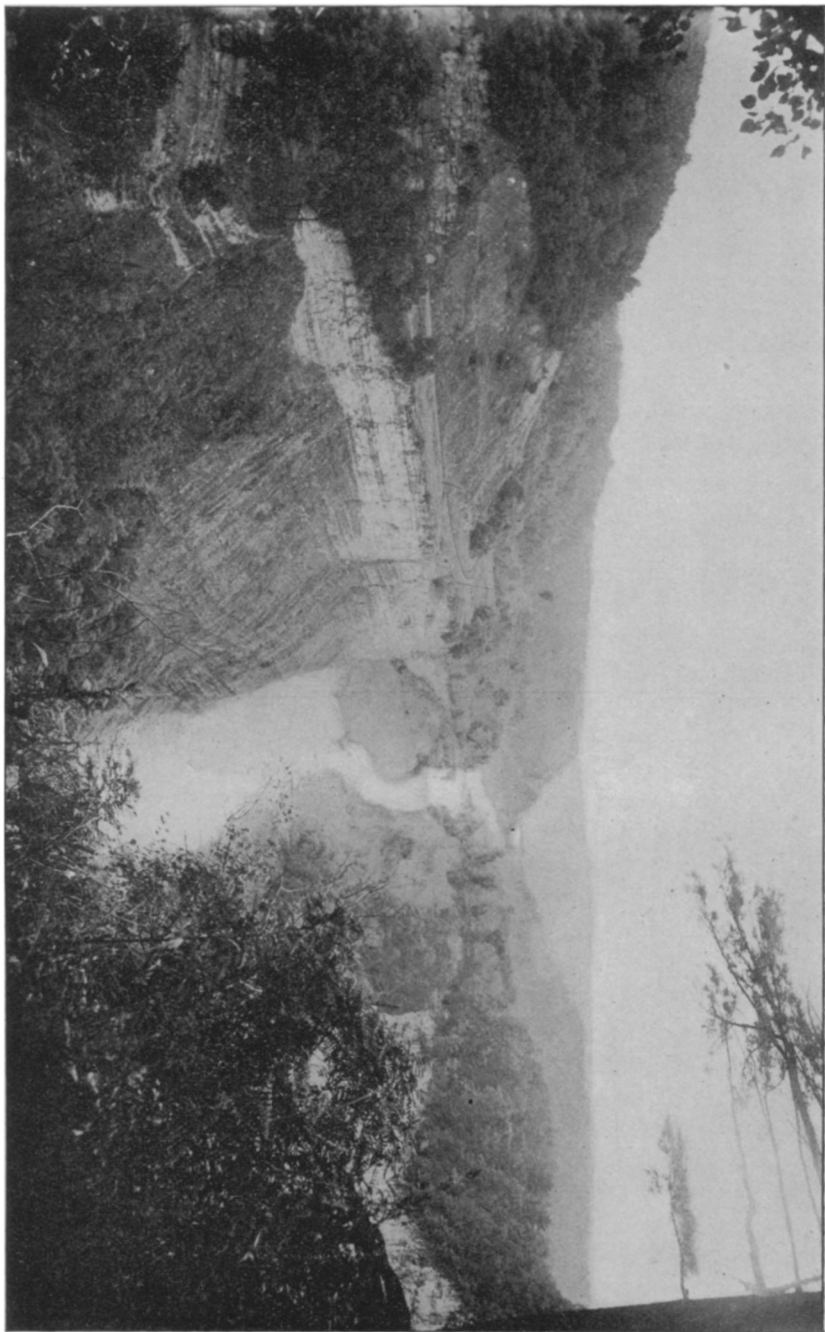
The facts given below are condensed, by the courtesy of Mr. Hall, from his attractive article. The J. B. Lyon Company, State Printers, Albany, kindly lent to the BULLETIN some of the illustrations which appeared with Mr. Hall's paper.

Mr. Letchworth has long been a conspicuous and public-spirited citizen of New York who for many years has devoted himself chiefly to charitable work. His service to the State in this direction has been notable. He was a member of The State Board of Charities for twenty-four years, and gave nearly all of his time to his official duties.

In 1859 he began to acquire the property at Glen Iris on the Genesee River which he has now presented to the State. He realized that, to protect the commanding beauty of the place, he must increase his acquisitions so as to take in both banks of the gorge. He therefore kept on buying until he had acquired about 1,000 acres stretching along both sides of the river for about three miles and including all three of the Portage Falls. The property has long been regarded in New York as second in beauty and interest only to Niagara Falls.

Mr. Letchworth has expended about a half-million dollars on the estate, which embraces both forest and farm lands. The great diversity of its topography has made it the habitat of a remarkable variety of flora and fauna. In improving the property, Mr. Letchworth has been so successful in preserving the natural conditions that the native growths and inhabitants still find congenial surroundings and continue to occupy their old haunts. George W. Clinton, president of the Society of Natural Sciences of Buffalo, says that a greater variety of plant life can be found there than in any other locality of which he has knowledge. Eldredge E. Fish, the naturalist, writes: "In many respects this charming retreat surpasses any other in its attractions for the naturalist. The flora is more abundant and varied, while the song birds are here in greater numbers than in any other locality in the state."

LETCWORTH PARK: LOOKING UP STREAM TOWARD MIDDLE AND UPPER FALLS, FROM NEAR THE STANDPOINT OF THE ARTIST COLE.

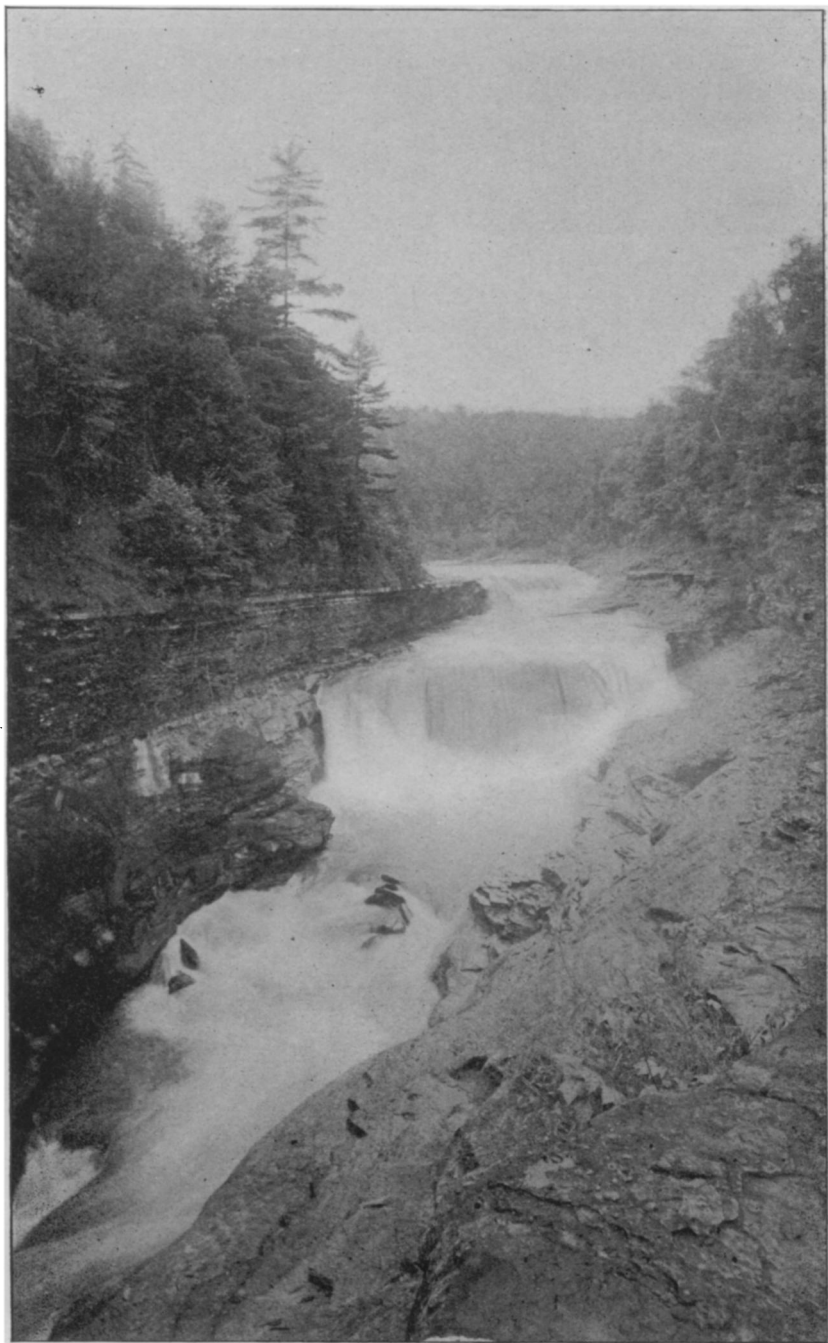


In addition to the public highways which run through the park, Mr. Letchworth laid out private drives and romantic paths, erected rustic arbors and gateways, built stone walls by the roadside along precipitous places, constructed flights of stairs by which to reach some of the more salient points, and otherwise made the estate safe and accessible.

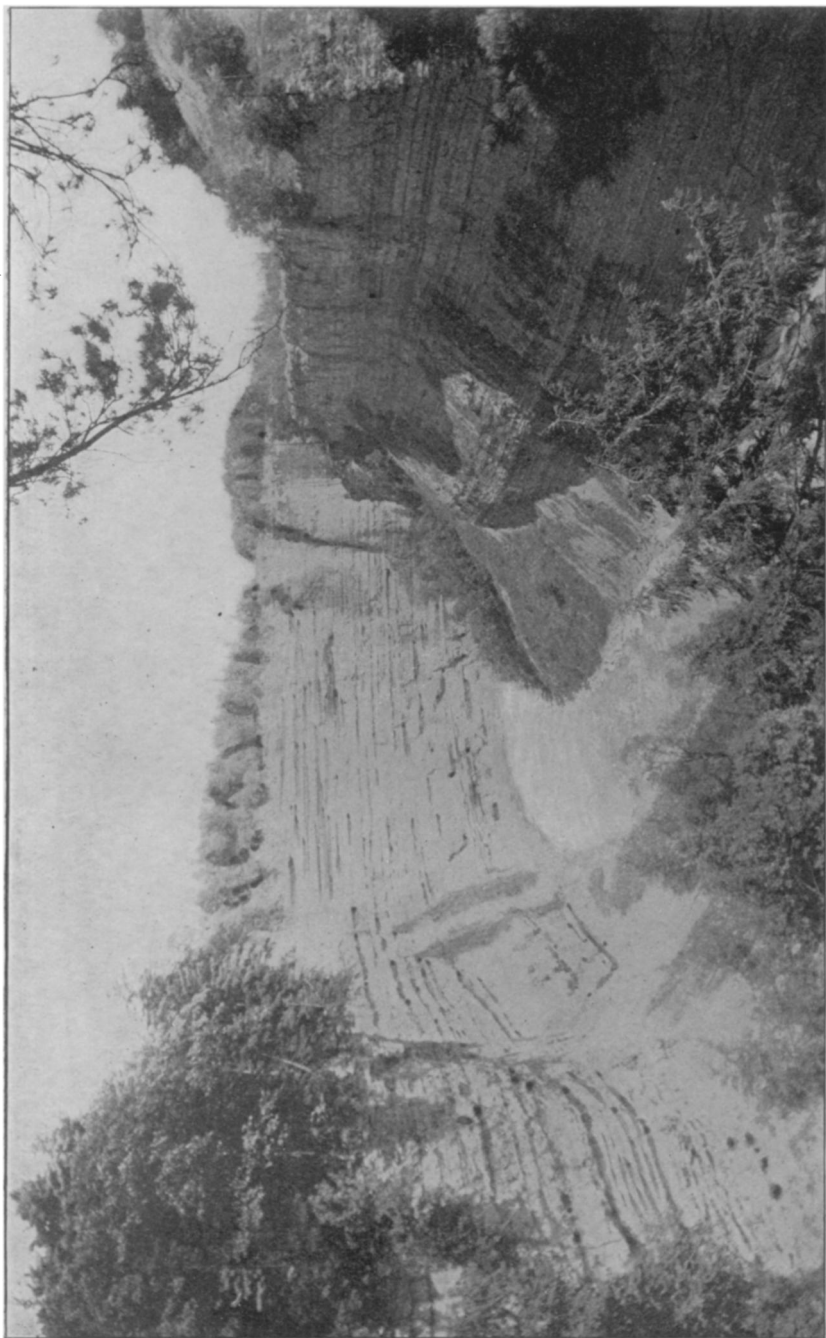
The many natural attractions to the park are supplemented by artificial objects of interest. This region was once the property of the Seneca Indians. The Indian Council House in which their last conference on the Genesee was held in 1872 has been removed from Caneadea to the park. It is built of hewn logs, the cracks chinked with moss and clay, and in the house are a mortar and pestle used by the Indians in pounding corn, a bark canoe, and other relics of the Red Man. Another interesting structure is the "White Woman's Cabin," in which Mary Jemison lived to an advanced age. When only thirteen years old, this Irish girl was captured by the Indians, adopted into the Senecas, became the wife of a chief, acquired much influence in the tribe, and refused to leave them when opportunities were afforded.

Mr. Letchworth for years has cordially invited the public to visit Glen Iris, and his regulations for the preservation of the place have always been cheerfully observed. The Portage bridge of the Erie Railroad, 800 feet long and 234 feet above the river, spans the river just above the "Upper Fall" and crosses the southern end of the park. The park extends just three miles along the Genesee as the stream runs. From its up-stream end and thence down stream for seventeen miles to Mount Morris the river flows through a narrow, deep, and picturesque gorge. At Portage bridge the land rises 308 feet above the bed of the river on the west side and 245 feet on the east side. A little north of the bridge the river makes a plunge of 71 feet at what is called the Upper Fall. About 2,100 feet below the Upper Fall and nearly opposite Mr. Letchworth's residence the river makes another plunge of 107 feet. This is called the Middle Fall, and its shape suggests the American Fall at Niagara on a reduced scale.

A few hundred feet below the Middle Fall the walls of the cañon are sheer precipices, 350 feet high—higher than the Palisades of the Hudson River opposite New York City. Nearly a mile and a half below the Middle Fall are the Lower Falls, an irregular set of cascades unevenly worn back and seventy feet high. The three Portage Falls, with their intermediate cascades, represent a total descent of about 290 feet. Thence the river continues through the chasm for



LETCHWORTH PARK: LOWER FALLS AND THE BEGINNING OF "THE FLUME."



LETCHWORTH PARK: VIEW OF GORGE NEAR ENTRANCE TO RESIDENCE, SHOWING STRATIFICATION.

fourteen miles to Mount Morris, where it emerges into an alluvial valley from one to two miles wide.

Geologists have calculated that the Devonian rocks exposed in the Portage gorge were formed over 37,000,000 years ago. But the Glen Iris gorge is not a part of the ancient Genesee valley. It was cut through the thick mantle of glacial débris that accumulated in the Ice Age. Mr. Hall gives a popular account of what geologists have revealed of the life history of this wonderful gorge. Among the fossils is a superb mastodon head, now in the Letchworth Park Museum.

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## CLIMATE AND MAN.\*

BY

ROBERT DEC. WARD, Harvard University.

Man's climatic environment affects him in many ways. His clothing, dwellings, food, occupations, and customs; his physical and mental characteristics; his systems of government; his migrations; his history—all are affected to a greater or less degree.

Civilized man protects himself more or less successfully against unfavourable climatic features. Thus, there is a gradual transition from the primitive shelter made of branches of trees, of skins, or leaves, to the permanent and highly elaborate modern building, which is both heated and cooled artificially. The building materials; the methods of uniting these materials, by braiding, or binding, or by the use of mortar, usually show the control of climate. Moreover, the material often determines the general plan of the building. There is also the transition from the primitive and scanty clothing made of leaves or bark where trees grow, or the skin of an animal where trees are lacking or warmer clothing is needed, to the manufactured and perhaps imported garment of wool, or cotton, or silk. Again, there is the increasing variety of food, from that of primitive man, supplied directly where he lives, to the highly-varied diet found in a civilized community to-day, to which distant latitudes are made to contribute their local delicacies.

All these changes man has brought about. But he cannot change his climate. Slight local modifications may be secured here and there, as by planting trees to serve as wind-breaks, or perhaps by in-

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\* From a forthcoming book on *Climate*.